



Around

County

Kunasek Elected Chairman of the Board



Andy Kunasek

District 3 Supervisor Andy Kunasek was elected Chairman of the Maricopa County Board of Supervisors on Monday, January 5th.

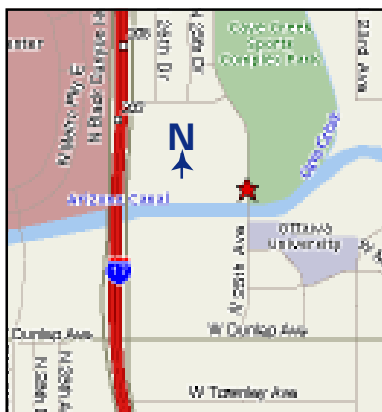
Kunasek was first appointed to the Board of Supervisors in 1997, and has since been re-elected twice. He has served as chairman once before, in 2000. An Arizona native, Kunasek represents most of central Phoenix and the north central portion of the county. ■

Louis Morgan Travelogue

Mark your calendars for Tuesday, January 20th from 12:00 - 1:00. **Louis Morgan** will captivate you with colorful and entertaining tales of his travels to Asia. Bring your lunch, pack your imaginary suitcase, and head to the Arizona Conference Room at 234 Central Ave. for this mental journey. ■

Head Start Biliteracy Conference

Head Start is presenting a statewide Biliteracy Conference on Friday, January 16, 2004 from 8:00 am - 5:00 pm at the Black Canyon Conference Center. The center is located at 9440 N. 25th Avenue (Dunlap and 25th Avenue).



Billie Enz from Arizona State University's College of Education is the scheduled keynote speaker. Highlights of the conference will include topics such as society, culture and literacy; language development; classroom practices and community resources.

Head Start staff is expected to attend the entire session and wear appropriate business attire.

Please RSVP to June Seville at (602) 506-5911. ■



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Work Matters

Maricopa County's Human Services Department

January 2004

Spreading Holiday Cheer

Serving up an abundance of cheer and goodwill, staff from the Human Services Department took time out of the hectic holiday pace to participate in events benefitting the community as well as departmental teambuilding activities.

Head Start

Head Start staff was busy this holiday season helping out the Marines in their Toys for Tots Campaign. In addition to collecting toys for the children, staff assisted the Marines by gathering the toys that were collected and preparing them for distribution to various sites around the valley.



Head Start staff assemble in front of the stage piled high with hundreds of toys at the Scottsdale Center for the Arts.

Head Start continued their holiday spirit by collectively and competitively engaging in snowman-building, and a crazy karaoke sing-a-long contest on December 19th.

Prior to the event, each Head Start cluster deliberated and labored over how to build the perfect snowman. When it came to game time they were prepared for the big event and wasted no time in creating original and creative works of art. The judges declared **Cluster I** the winners of the most original snowman, **Cluster II** won best team participation, and the most creative award was awarded to **Cluster VI**.

The karaoke contest displayed the vocal talents of the staff members, and showcased their songwriting abilities as well.

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After the last toy was sent off for distribution, Head Start's **Ann-Marie Corriveau** settles down for a long winter's nap.

Director's Corner



Annette Stein,
HSD Acting Director

The Babylonians celebrated New Years Day over 4,000 years ago, although their celebration was in March rather than in January, coinciding with the spring planting of crops.

The new year, no matter when or where people have celebrated it, has always been a time for looking back on the past, and more importantly, forward to the coming year. A perfect time to reflect on the changes we want, or often need, if we are to have the motivation to move forward.

If 2003 wasn't a good year for you, there is always hope that 2004 will be better. The new year starts out as an empty book and provides you with an opportunity to fill the pages with activities that are both motivating and rewarding. It is a challenge that empowers you to create goals that are reasonable and achievable, and that you can accomplish in twelve months.

I reflected on the past year in last months column, and as I look ahead to 2004, my hope is that together, as a department, we continue to grow and move forward in a positive direction. I hope that you will look for new and creative ways to be challenged both personally and professionally. I also hope the new year brings each of you good fortune in all aspects of your lives. Here's to 2004.

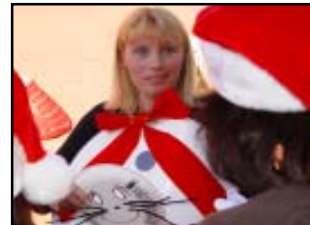
Happy New Year! ■

Holiday Cheer (cont. from page 1)



Cluster VII poses with their snowman (left)

Lori Neeman and representatives from Cluster II prepared a "Thing" Sing-A-Long.



During the Pulliam grant awards Mary Rose Wilcox, Supervisor District 5 (left), honors Bernice (Bee) Merritt (second from left) for her many years of volunteer service at the Guadalupe CAP office. Mayor Vinicio Alvarez, Town of Guadalupe (second from right), and Margarita Cota, Councilwoman, Town of Guadalupe (right) also extended their gratitude to Merritt

Community Services

Community Services hosted the Pulliam grant awards on December 11th. In addition to the Community Action Program (CAP) staff, attending were David Smith, County Administrator and Mary Rose Wilcox, Supervisor District 5.

Smith commented that witnessing the Pulliam grant awards was a rewarding way to start the holiday season. Wilcox reiterated Smith's sentiments and commended Community Services, the CAP staff and the Pulliam Foundation for helping people in need.

Due to the generosity of the Pulliam Foundation, each of the CAP offices was awarded \$5,500 to spend on their communities. ■

Central Staff

Dario Chioda, chief accountant, has been performing his own personal community outreach for the past several decades. Dario and the Strummers, as his group is currently known, spent Christmas Eve singing and distributing presents to patients at the Maricopa County Medical Center.

Chioda, along with David Lopez, WDD training specialist, have spent the past 21 years with family members and various HSD staff performing for children who have been hospitalized. ■



From left to right: Terry Doolan, Dario Chioda, David "Santa Claus" Lopez, Jessica Lopez, Celina Lopez and Todd Berndt, compose themselves.

2004 NACo Applications Due

If you have a program that's new, innovative, or enhances the cost effectiveness of an existing county government program, fill out a NACo award application to be recognized for your department's contributions to Maricopa County's success.



Download the application at www.naco.org. Click on library, awards, achievement awards and scroll down to the 2004 achievement award application.

Carefully read and follow the instructions. Each step in the application process **must** be completed. The deadline for submission of applications is January 16, 2004. To familiarize yourself with the program criteria, review the eligibility standards and criteria.

A few reminders:

- The program must have become operational after January 1, 2000, and have measurable results.
- Maricopa County staff must have been significantly involved in developing and implementing the program.
- There is a \$50 fee for each application, so please include your accounting string on the application.
- Send an electronic or hard copy of your application, and the name of the contact person, to: Diane Hilow, 234 N. Central Ave. Phoenix, AZ 85004, or dhilow@mail.maricopa.gov. ■

Workforce Development Division Awarded H-1B Training Grant

The Department of Labor Employment and Training Administration (ETA) recently awarded Maricopa County Human Services Department Workforce Development Division a second H-1B Technical Skills Training Grant in the amount of \$3,000,000.

The ultimate goal of this project is to enable incumbent workers, unemployed workers, and underemployed workers to effectively prepare for and advance in positions requiring a high level of skills within the IT, engineering/manufacturing, and biotechnology fields.

The project activities are designed to enhance the skill level of current employees to a significant level to reduce the need and request for H-1B workers. As a result of the project, workers will increase their employment opportunities. In addition, upgrading their skills can possibly protect employees from possible downsizing.

The One-Stop system will offer training to unemployed candidates who have been identified through their rigorous assessment and career planning process. It will then connect such individuals with training and placement opportunities in key positions within the IT, engineering/manufacturing, and biotechnology industries.

The grant collaboration includes Apollo Group, Banner Health, Brooks Automation, Honeywell, Intel Corporation, Motorola, TGen, Three-Five Systems.

Kudos to Suzanne Ledy, WDD Business Projects Coordinator, and Susan Schmidt, Acting Assistant Director, for their efforts in obtaining the H-1B grant. ■

To Your Health

Quit Smoking Class

When: Six consecutive Thursdays, 1/15; 1/22; 1/29; 2/5; 2/12 & 2/19. 12:00 noon to 1:00 pm.

Where: 301 W. Jefferson, 10th Floor, Board of Supervisor's Conference Room.

Nicotine replacement (patch, gum, or lozenge) will be provided at 50% off the retail price. For further information, please register at 602-372-7272.

Mammography Screening

Mobile on-site mammography uses the latest mammography technology for your safety and comfort.

Who: County female employees ages 35 and over who are Cigna and Health Select carriers (call for verification). Women under age 35 must have doctor referral (even if paying cash). Uninsured participants have to pay out of pocket (\$105).

Where and When:

Tuesday, January 13, 2004

Parking lot at 5th Avenue and Madison, across from downtown parking garage. 7:00 am-5:00 pm.

Thursday, January 15, 2004

2150 South Country Club Drive. 7:00 am-11:00 am.

Registration: Call 480-967-3767.

Have your insurance card available when calling.

Length of Appointment:

15 minutes

Cost: FREE screening, no co-pay for covered participants. Non-insured patients pay \$105 (includes the radiologist reading). In addition to the regular interpretation by the radiologist, they offer the R-2 computerized reading for an additional \$24. ■